8.0

ECF Utilities

The Utilities menu option provides utilities to maintain accounts, update recipient email addresses, obtain internet payment information, make online payments and view recipient mailing lists by case. Users should review these reports periodically to fully utilize the system.

A Legal Research link is also provided for convenient Westlaw access and the Verify a Document option is under the Utilities menu to allow for document authentication.

This chapter will cover

1. Internet Payments Due
2. Internet Payment History
3. Maintaining ECF User Account
4. Transaction Log
5. Recipient Mailing List by Case
6. ECF Users Report
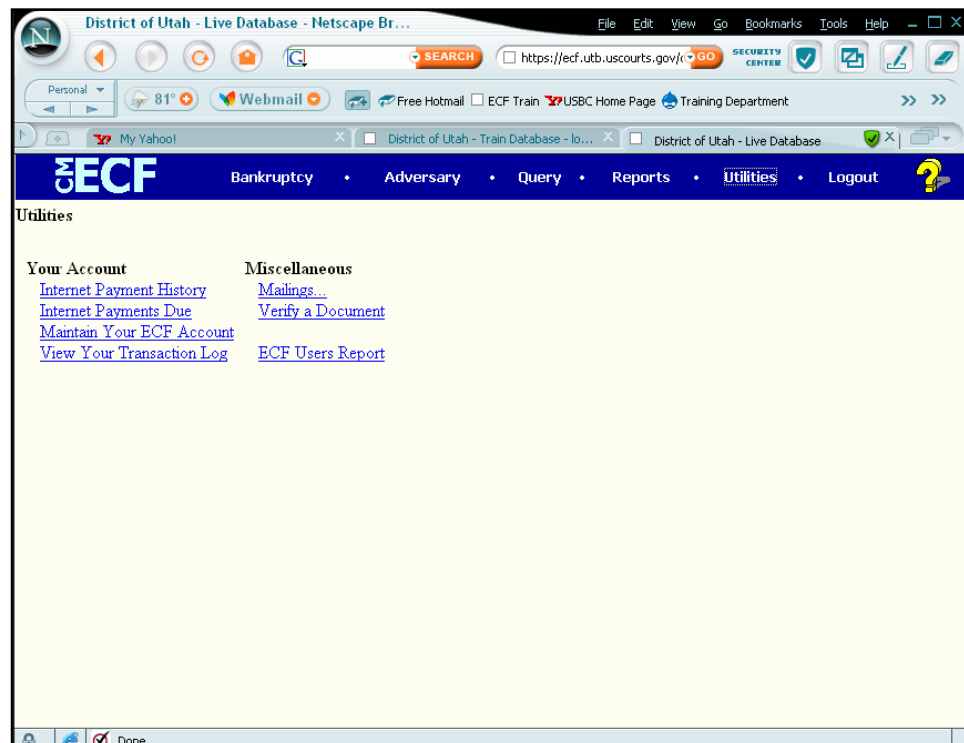
8.1

Internet Payments Due

All fees accrued for fee events within ECF, such as an amended matrix or a voluntary petition, those fees will be paid over the internet using a credit card. All payments are made to the U.S. Treasury and not directly to the court.

The court has allowed you as an ECF filer a 24-hour grace period in which to pay your fees on line. For every eight-hours that you do not pay your fees, you will receive an email reminding you that you need to pay your fees. At the end of the 24-hour period, your ECF account will be locked, and the only item that is accessible will be the Internet Payments Due hyperlink. Once the delinquent fees are paid, your ECF account will be unlocked and you can then use the system normally. With that said, the court does request that you pay all the accrued fees before the end of the day (midnight). That way, today's fees aren't carried over into tomorrow's books.

The following credit cards are accepted:
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Discover
- American Express
- Diner's Club

Browser Limitation

There is a browser limitation for using Pay.gov (the Internet payment system). You must be using Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher, or Netscape 7.x and higher.

Pop-Up Blockers

The fee payment window shows up as a pop-up window. You must set the ECF site as a safe site for your browsers. This is done differently depending on the browser you are using. Most browsers will block the pop-ups by default, and will notify you when an ad (pop-up) has been blocked. You will need to experiment with your browser to determine how to configure your browser.

If you are using a firewall and that firewall has a pop-up blocker feature active, again, look at whatever documentation that came with your firewall to allow the ECF system to present pop-up windows.

Reference:
- **Section 8.2 Internet Payment History**

Upon successful submission of a docket entry requiring a filing fee payment, such as a new case, amended schedules or a motion for relief, the filer will be offered the option to pay the filing fee at that point or continue filing documents and pay a short time later. Figure 1 demonstrates the screen that will appear when fees are due.

Select [Pay Now] or [Continue Filing].

Pay Now
- If you select [Pay Now], the screen in Figure 2 will appear.
- Enter your credit card information and click on [Continue].
- You will get a Payment Summary and Authorization screen (figure 3). Place a checkmark in the authorization box. If you want an email to receive a confirmation receipt, enter your email address. Click on [Make Payment] when you are done.

Figure 1

```
**************** IMPORTANT NOTICE ****************
Do NOT use the browser 'Back' button during the payment process.
*********************************************************
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Summary of current charges:

Date Incurred	Description	Amount
2005-08-11 09:09:35	Motion for Relief From Stay(04-20450) [motion,mrlfsty] (150.00) (Johnson, Jared)	$ 150.00
2005-08-11 09:11:39	Motion to Abandon(04-20450) [motion,mabn] (150.00) (Johnson, Jared)	$ 150.00
		Total: $ 300.00

[Pay Now]   [Continue Filing]

Figure 2

Online Payment   Return to your originating application
Step 1: Enter Payment Information   1 | 2
Pay Via Plastic Card (PC) (ex: American Express, Diners Club, Discover, Mastercard, VISA)
Required fields are indicated with a red asterisk *

Account Holder Name: Jared Johnson   *
Payment Amount: $300.00   *
Billing Address: 350 So Main St   *
Billing Address 2:
City:
State / Province: ——
Zip / Postal Code: 84101
Country: United States   *
Card Type: * VISA MasterCard AMEX Diners Club DISCOVER
Card Number: * (Card number value should not contain spaces or dashes)
Expiration Date: * /   *

Select the "Continue with Plastic Card Payment" button to continue to the next step in the Plastic Card Payment Process.

[Continue with Plastic Card Payment]   [Cancel]

Note: Please avoid navigating the site using your browser's Back Button - this may lead to incomplete data being transmitted and pages being loaded incorrectly. Please use the links provided whenever possible.

Figure 3

Online Payment   Return to your originating application
Step 2: Authorize Payment   1 | 2
Payment Summary   Edit this information

Address Information	Account Information	Payment Information
Account Holder Name: Jared Johnson	Card Type: Visa	Payment Amount: $300.00
Billing Address: 350 So Main St	Card Number: ************1111	Transaction Date 08/11/2005 11:18
Billing Address 2:	Expiration Date: 1 / 2007	and Time: EDT
City:		
State / Province:		
Zip / Postal Code: 84101		
Country: USA		

Email Confirmation Receipt
To have a confirmation sent to you upon completion of this transaction, provide an email address and confirmation below.

Email Address:
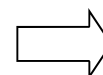Confirm Email Address:

Authorization and Disclosure
Required fields are indicated with a red asterisk *

I authorize a charge to my card account for the above amount in accordance with my card issuer agreement. ☐ *

Press the "Submit Payment" Button only once. Pressing the button more than once could result in multiple transactions.

[Submit Payment]   [Cancel]

Note: Please avoid navigating the site using your browser's Back Button - this may lead to incomplete data being transmitted and pages being loaded incorrectly. Please use the links provided whenever possible.

Section 8.1: Internet Credit Card Processing (Internet Payments Due)

Confirmation screen that payment has been received.

Continue Filing

- If you select [Continue Filing], the screen in Figure 1 will continue to appear upon completion of every docket entry, including those that do not require a fee, until the fees have been paid.
- The screen that appears will continue to accrue charges in all cases as seen in Figure 4.

Authorization Failure or Denial

- Users will be allowed three attempts to pay before receiving a failed transaction notice.
- The on-line payment program includes address verification. The address of the registered user will be verified against the address of the card holder. If they do not match you may receive a failure notice.
- If a failure notice is displayed, users should first contact the credit card service center to verify credit limits, payments or address information.

Users are strongly encouraged to pay fees by the end of the day the fee event was filed. If fee events are entered and not paid on Friday, a lockout will occur over the weekend.

Figure 4

8.2
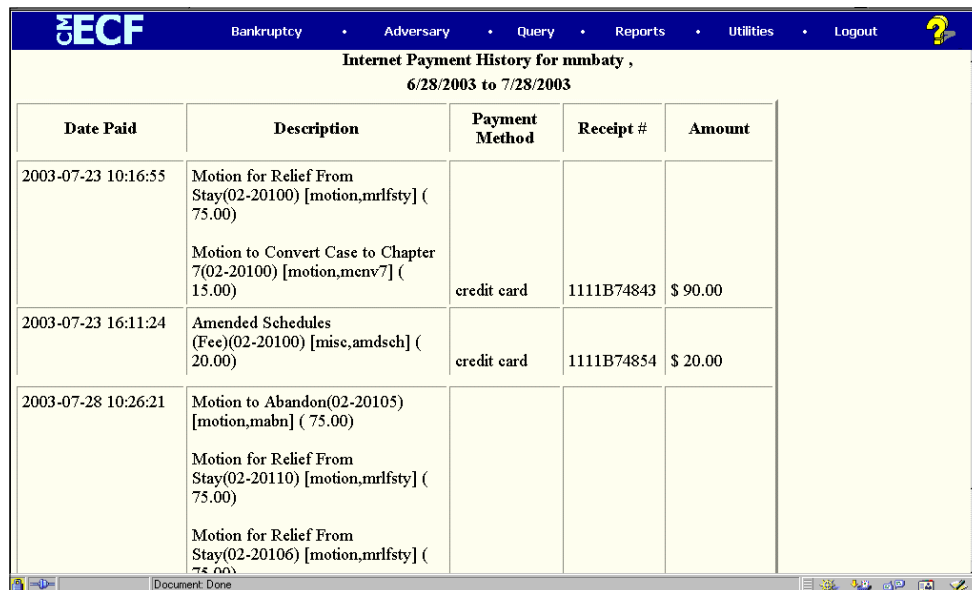
Internet Payment History

Figure 1 below is an example of the Internet Payment History report. The report will display a full accounting of online payments for the user according to the dates you specify. The default setting for the report is one month from the date that you open the history window.

Reference:
- **Section 7.1 Internet Credit Card Processing (Internet Payments Due)**

Figure 1

8.3

Maintain ECF User Account

As a registered user, you will be given access to maintain your own account information through Maintain Your ECF Account. Using this option, users can update their name, mailing and e-mail addresses, phone and fax numbers, and passwords. Users can then control the accuracy of their own information in a timely manner. The user account will need to be updated as changes occur, such as change of address, change of email provider, and when the need to change your password occurs.

Changing of password will need to occur if your feel the password security has been compromised or when an employee with access to your account, leaves your employ.

STEP 1 Click on the Utilities hyperlink on the blue bar. Click on the Maintain your ECF Account.

STEP 2 Your user account information will be displayed (see figure 1). Any correction made to the user information on this page can affect all your cases (see submitting changes on next page).

Change Email

STEP 1 Click on the [Email Information] button to access your email information. Change your primary address in the Primary e-mail address.

STEP 2 Add additional email addresses

STEP 3 You can also receive notices for other cases that you are not involved in by adding case numbers to the text area labeled "Send notices in these additional cases". Click the [Return to Account screen] when finished with email settings.

More User Information (change password)

STEP 1 Click on the [More user information] button to change your password. The only thing that can be changed on this screen in the password.

STEP 2 Highlight the current password in the text box.

STEP 3 Change the password. It is recommended that you use a combinations of letters and numbers/symbols to create your password. This will make it harder for someone to randomly discover your password. Click the [Return to Account screen] when finished with changing your password.

Figure 1

Submitting changes

STEP 3 Once you are finished with changing/managing your account information, click on the [Submit] button.

STEP 4 A screen will appear requesting that you select the cases to be updated (see figure 2). Leave the default Update All highlighted and click on Submit your changes.

A Change Confirmation screen will display informing you that your account and associated cases have been updated.

Figure 2

8.4

Transaction Log

The Transaction Log is a record of all transactions that have occurred on the account currently logged in.. If there are multiple accounts in your office, you would view them separately. This could be a useful tool for tracking activity within your office on a particular account or employee.

The transaction log is queried by date, allowing you to select the date range.

STEP 1   Click on the Utilities hyperlink on the blue bar. Click on the View your Transaction Log.

STEP 2   Enter start and end dates in MM/DD/YYYY format, or accept the default dates. Click the [Submit] button.

STEP 3   The Transaction Log is displayed (see figure 1). The log displays a transaction ID number, Dates of the transactions, case numbers of the cases the account has been involved in, and a brief text of actions performed.

Figure 1

8.5

Recipient Mailing List

The **Mailings** option under the Utilities menu selection will provide a list of electronic and manual recipients for a case. This information can be used to create a certificate of service and allow the user to indicate the method in which service was provided to parties.

The notice to parties is created and converted to PDF before you actually file it electronically. By utilizing the Mailings option you can enter the case number and see what parties will require a manual notice and what parties will receive the electronic notification and include this information on the service list.

Shortcut: Copy (Ctrl c) and Paste (Ctrl v) directly from the list to the pleading you are preparing.
Type **(Received Electronically)** by the names listed to received electronic notification.
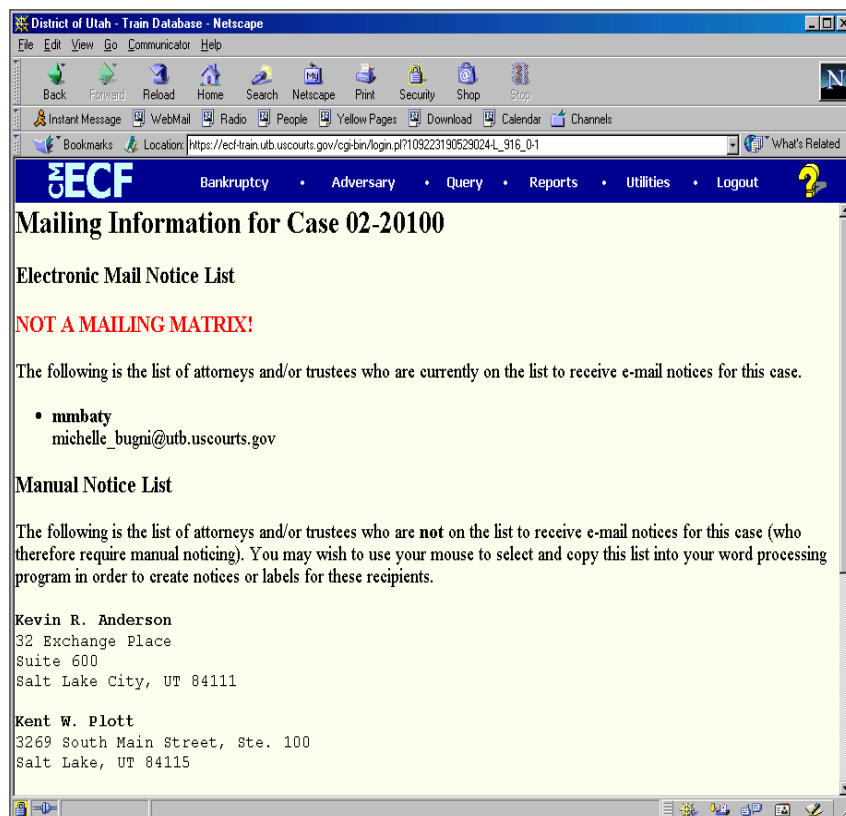
8.6

ECF Users Report

This simple report will display all registered ECF users within the system. This users are attorneys and trustees. The list is show alphabetically.